



SALTO YOUTH Good Practices Newsletter

Focus on the role of “Sport” in Europe

Although not directed specifically at sport, many of the rules, policies and programmes of the European Union have an impact on the sports world or are of interest to it. Within the Directorate-General Education and Culture, is the Sport Unit, (http://europa.eu.int/comm/sport/index_en.html) which is responsible for the following main areas:

- cooperation within the Commission and with other institutions on sport-related issues
- cooperation with national and international sports institutions, organisations and federations
- bilateral meetings with sports institutions and organisations and international sports federations.

According to the 2004 Eurobarometer on sport, 62% of EU citizens see it as useful that sport is to be enshrined in the Constitution while 63% want more cooperation between the EU, sports organisations and governments.¹

- Eurobarometer http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_213_summ_en.pdf

□ PAST EVENTS

2004: EUROPEAN YEAR OF EDUCATION THROUGH SPORT

Last year the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament have decided to establish the **European Year of Education through Sport 2004** (EYES 2004). Within this framework, the European Commission DG Education and Culture selected and co-financed approximately **200 projects** at local, regional, national, trans-national or community-wide level. The main objective of the campaign is to sensitise the European public to the importance of sport in an educational context as well as to increase the significance of physical activities in school curricula. www.eyes-2004.info

2004: SALTO TC INCLUSION THROUGH SPORTS

Within the frame of the European Year of Education through Sports (EYES), the SALTO “Inclusion” Resource Centre organised, in spring 2004, two training courses “Inclusion through Sports” - **How to use sports and outdoor pedagogics as an educational tool to include young people with fewer opportunities in YOUTH programme projects**. To find out more on the content: www.salto-youth.net/tcsports/

□ INSTITUTIONS

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON SPORTS

The Council of Europe works actively to promote sport for all as a means of improving the quality of life, to facilitate social integration and contributing to social cohesion, particularly among young people and to foster **tolerance through sport** and defending sport against the serious threats currently facing it. Its website proposes some chapters dedicated to “**Democracy through and in sport**” and other issues related to sports as doping and violence. Since 1991, the SPorts Reform, INnovation and Training (SPRINT) programme has provided a growing number of countries with the expertise, advice and solidarity needed to undertake the necessary reforms. The main areas of work are: legislative reform; democratising the sports movement; promotion of sport for all; enabling sports associations and clubs to adapt to modern requirements and a market economy; and developing the role of local authorities. Many voluntary contributions were made by governments to this programme, which is now financed by the Sports Fund. www.coe.int/T/E/cultural_co-operation/Sport/

¹ Press Release

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1434&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en>

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations)

UNESCO held its 4th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sports (MINEPS IV) in Greece on 6-8 December 2004. The EU's Member States and the Dutch Presidency participated actively in this meeting. Three major issues were addressed by the delegates: UNESCO's draft **anti-doping convention**, a draft strategy on **physical education** and the **issue of women in sport**. Commissioner **Ján Figel**, whose portfolio includes sport, welcomed the works of delegates : *"According to a recent Eurobarometer, the fight against doping is a priority for a huge majority of Europeans and UNESCO's draft convention is good news for everyone involved in that cause. The draft will be presented at the UNESCO's general conference in September 2005 and ratifications will start after that date"*.²

UNITED NATIONS

The **International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE 2005)** provides a unique opportunity to focus the world's attention on the importance of sport in society and on how sport and physical education programmes can be used as tools to help combat challenges such as extreme poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDS. Sport and physical education play a vital role at all levels of society.

Here again, sport is linked to other societal issues and ONU themes as Education, Peace and Development or Health.

To discover projects and activities the webpage of UN www.un.org/sport2005/a_year/ayear_for.html

PDF version brochure: www.un.org/sport2005/resources/concept.pdf

□ RESOURCES

WEBSITE: THE EUROPEAN WOMEN AND SPORT

This is a free-standing group gathering representatives and contact persons related to or interested in gender equality work of non-governmental or governmental sports organisations and bodies in their respective countries which aims at **promoting the national equality work in sports** and at **disseminating information with European sports organisations/bodies** at non-governmental and governmental level. To follow their activities a list of conferences and a newsletter are available on the website. www.ews-online.org

TOOLS: SALTO YOUTH

Some tools on sport? Visit the Salto Youth webpage to find them all! Amongst them, the publication: **"Sports Stimulation Initiatives for Underprivileged Youth"**. Sport can be regarded as an important leisure time activity for underprivileged youth, based on a number of social meanings of sports participation. This paper discusses the possibilities of sports stimulation initiatives in schools, youth welfare work and sports clubs. It describes a number of existing initiatives sponsored by the Belgian King Baudouin Foundation. www.salto-youth.net/find-a-tool

ARTICLE: from COYOTE "SPORTRIO: AN EXAMPLE OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION THROUGH SPORT" by A. Storz

The YOUTH programme has enabled a large-scale European project known as "SporTrio II" to be started for young persons with disabilities. Anne Storz, general coordinator of the project tells her experience. *« The word "sport" is not synonymous with competition! What it means first and foremost is enjoyment, recreation and interaction with fellow team members. »* www.training-youth.net/site/publications/coyote/coyote08/incl_sportrio.htm

REPORT: RACISM, FOOTBALL AND THE INTERNET

The Internet has become a forum for over 300 million potential users around the world. Racist, violent and extremist organisations and groupings have been quick learnt to seize upon this new medium and take advantage of its benefits through systematic and rational use. The **European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)** decided to commission research to examine both the scope and the content of home pages which call for the **use of football as a platform for racist and violent activities**. Download electronic copy of this report <http://eumc.eu.int/eumc/material/pub/football/Football.pdf>

FINAL REPORT: STUDIES ON EDUCATION AND SPORT- "SPORT AND MULTICULTURALISM" Jan. 2005 – (245 pages)

The report, produced by PMP Consultancy in partnership with Loughborough University's Institute of Sport and Leisure Policy, was commissioned as part of the EYES 2004 by the **DG Education and Culture**. One of the core recommendations of the study on sport and multiculturalism is that the Commission use sport as a communication tool to promote anti-racism messages. The report passes a strong message on the need to unleash the positive potential of sport, both inside and outside the EU. <http://europa.eu.int/comm/sport/documents/lot3.pdf>

² Speech by Commissioner Figel in Parliament "Drug-taking in sport: obstacle to the ideal of athleticism?" debate (29 Nov. 2004) http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/figel/speeches/docs/sp291104.pdf

